



South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS  
Foundation Trust  
Nexus House  
Gatwick Road  
Crawley  
RH10 9BG

Date 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Email:

Email:foi@secamb.nhs.uk

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/18/03/24.

You requested the following information, please also see our response below:

**1. The number of drug-related incidents recorded by ambulance crews in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017**

**Where possible, could these be broken down by cocaine-related and heroin-related and other subsets recorded by your ambulance service**

Please see tables below. Please note all data in the following tables is taken from information recorded by call takers not ambulance crews. Information recorded by ambulance crews would be stored on individual PCRs and to extract this information would exceed 18hours and therefore be exempt under Section 12.

The Trust introduced a new triage tool during 2011. For incidents prior to this please refer to Table 1. For incidents after this please refer to Table 2. Both tables show the number of incidents with a response at scene.

**Table 1**

Year	Overdose / Poisoning	Cocaine*	Heroin**
2010	14994	74	73
2011	4357	31	17

\*This shows the number of incidents where one of the following Determinants was selected:

- Chest Pain after taking Cocaine
- Heart Problems - Cocaine involved
- Overdose/Poisoning (ingestion) Cocaine, Methamphetamine (or derivatives)
- Accidental Overdose or Cocaine, Methamphetamine (or derivative)
- Intentional Overdose of Cocaine, Methamphetamine (or derivative);
- Cocaine, Methamphetamine (or derivative) overdose - Violent

\*\* This shows the number of incidents where one of the following Determinants was selected:

- Overdose/Poisoning (ingestion) Narcotics (heroin)
- Accidental Overdose of Narcotics (Heroin)
- Intentional Overdose of Narcotics (Heroin)
- Narcotics (Heroin) Overdose - Violent

The Overdose/Poisoning column shows where this problem nature was selected. Please note that the problem nature is determined by the call taker, and not a diagnosis, what was found when a crew arrived on scene or what the patient was treated for if conveyed to hospital.

**Table 2**

Year	Cocaine	Heroin
2011	41	134
2012	156	317
2013	125	272
2014	179	369
2015	220	364
2016	225	341
2017	350	241

Using the current triage tool, it is not possible to collectively identify "drug-related" incidents - these fall under a number of different Problem Nature categories.

This data has been pulled using a search through free text for the following terms:

- Cocaine
- Heroin

Please note this may not be a true reflection of calls as there may be cases where this term is mentioned within the text but does not relate to the incident itself and may relate to something else i.e. patient's medical history

## **2. Any definitions used by ambulance crews when recording an incident as drug-related, heroin-related or cocaine related**

Ambulance crews use relevant codes on the Patient Care Record (PCR) to identify the condition of the patient. Under the heading of Substance Misuse / Overdose these include:

- P01 Opiates Intentional
- P02 Opiates Accidental

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Information Governance Manager via the following email address:

[FOI@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@secamb.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator  
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust